

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Developmental Disabilities Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

November 6, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune
Kim Champney
Mary Elam
Kathy Fitzgerald
Dave Fleurant
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Alex Gimarc
Maureen Harwood
Lexie Henning
Christine King
Kaleene Lamb
Steve Lesko
Amanda Lofgren
Sharon Miranda
Ric Nelson
Sean O'Brien
Mark Romick

Staff:

Carrie Predeger
Tracy Golly

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Art Delaune welcomed everyone. Carrie Predeger introduced Mark Romick, who will be replacing James Wiedle temporarily, and Amanda Lofgren, who is sharing the Trust seat with Steve Williams.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Carrie Predeger noted that the minutes from the June meeting still needed to be approved, but were not on the agenda. Also, Carrie said that Patrick Reinhart was traveling, so the discussion of transportation that was under New Business would be postponed until December.

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the agenda with these amendments. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETINGS

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the June 3rd, 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the September 11th, 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that she had written a letter of support on behalf of the Governor's Council for the Center for Human Development's NIMH pilot Friendship and Dating Program for Adults with Autism.

Carrie also noted that she sent in the Council's comments on the proposed regulations to the Office of Rate Review by e-mail.

REPORTS

From the Chair

The DD Committee chair, Art Delaune, had been traveling and had no business to report.

DD Program

Maureen Harwood reported that Lynne Keilman-Cruz is the new Health Program Manager IV, replacing Kathy Potter.

Maureen noted that at the last meeting there was some discussion about the I/DD unit's compliance with Center for Medicaid and Medicare. Maureen stated that they are doing very well, within the 30-day requirement for initial plans, amendments, renewals, and so on. Maureen stated that they continue to train providers in the new MMIS system.

Maureen Harwood reported that her department is in the process of doing another draw of about 30 people, and there are now 685 people on the registration and review list. Maureen responded to the question of the percentage of people on the registry who have a score of zero, stating that of the 672 that were on the wait list in September, 26 percent scored zero, with a range of zero to 117. Maureen noted that they encourage people to register even if they don't feel that they need services. Discussion ensued about how the selection process is weighted toward people with behavioral problems, and the committee decided to review the tool that was developed to score the needs of those on the wait list.

Ric Nelson noted that he had heard Duane Mayes say that the cost of the I/DD waiver is higher than that of the others, and Ric would like to get more data and try to figure out why that is the case. Maureen said that she would try to get more information from Duane.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus requested information on how many people have been drawn for a waiver, didn't meet level of care, and as a result lost their DD eligibility. Maureen said that she would respond at the next meeting.

AADD

Kim Champney reported that AADD had their annual meeting last week, and they had good participation from SDS. Duane Mayes' concern over the increasing cost of waiver services was one big topic of discussion, and Kim noted that Duane had said that there is a program trends report on the SDS website.

Kim Champney stated that Teresa, Rich, and Patrick presented at AADD's face-to-face meeting about the Council's priorities and about Employment First. Kim said that at the meeting, Teresa Holt suggested that the Council and AADD could work together in making recommendations for the Mental Health Trust employment focus area funding. Kim added that Jared Kosin of the Office of Rate Review was also at the meeting, and he indicated that he is taking comments on the proposed regulations seriously.

Kim explained that now that providers have been working under the new regulations for several months, they are starting to develop a list of unintended consequences of implementation. Kim said that SDS is receptive to this information.

Kim Champney announced that AADD has launched a new website, and they are about to post a job description for a new executive director. This will be a half-time position, and the right person will probably be located by word of mouth, so Kim asked committee members to encourage anyone they would recommend to look into it.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated that the Key board of directors met last month to plan Key 27. They received the resignation of their lobbyist, Clark Gruening, who has been with the organization for over 20 years. They appointed a task force to find a replacement.

Steve Lesko stated that they had appointed all the guides and set the dates for Key 27, which will be February 11th and 12th. Steve read Key's draft platform of priorities:

- Supporting the Complex Behavior Collaborative

- Supporting an initiative to reduce the DDDR wait list by at least 200 families per year
- Supporting bills on Employment First and on restraint and seclusion in schools that are currently being drafted by Representative Millett's office
- Looking for a legislator who will draft a bill to establish a task force to look at direct service provider wages

Steve noted that this is a draft, not their final platform, and they are open to suggestions until the next teleconference on November 22nd.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Ric Nelson reported that at the last Executive Committee meeting, they discussed how the October Council meeting went, and they went over the budget again.

Peer Power

Tracy Golly reported that the funds have been transferred from People First to Peer Power. Peer Power has its website up and running, though it is still being developed, and a Facebook page. Tracy showed committee members a brochure that is almost finished, and said that they are in the process of completing a newsletter too.

FASD

Art Delaune reported that he and Jeanne are still planning to form a working group to come up with a foundation for an FASD ad hoc committee. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus said that she is planning to make some contacts, and Art added that he is going to get in touch with Teri Tibbett soon. Carrie Predeger said that she would send Jeanne the names of the people at the Council meeting who were interested in getting involved.

Housing

Mark Romick explained that he is filling in for James Wiedle's position while they look for a replacement. Mark also announced that they have a new

executive director for the first time in 18 years. Bryan Butcher, the former Commissioner of Revenue, worked for AHFC in the past, and is currently trying to get reoriented. Mark suggested that Council members “meet and greet” him, and said that he will give Carrie a contact number.

Mark explained the rent reforms that have been implemented in the public housing program. Mark also stated that every year Alaska Housing prepares a state plan for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to tell them how they are going to spend \$7.5 million of federal housing and community development money. Mark said that the public comment period will be in January or February, and he requested input from the Governor’s Council.

Mark Romick stated that in the past year, four new pieces of guidance have been issued from the federal government to agencies like AHFC about the parameters of what they consider to be appropriate types of housing under the Olmstead Act. Mark explained that the AHFC is reaching out to boards like the Mental Health Trust and ABADA for dialogue on these issues, and he would like to get the Governor’s Council involved as well.

Rural Issues

There was no news on rural issues at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education, January 21, 22, and 23 in Juneau
- Key Campaign, February 11th and 12th

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next DD Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th, from 1 to 3 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.